

SENATE No. 511

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to improve health care for rheumatologic patients in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Richard R. Tisei	Middlesex and Essex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00636 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR RHEUMATOLOGIC PATIENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 47T of Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following additional new section:

3 Section 47U: The commissioner shall establish an advisory panel of five medical experts to
4 advise the commissioner on whether off-label uses for rheumatologic disease treatment not
5 included in any of the standard reference compendia or in the medical literature are medically
6 appropriate. The panel shall advise the commissioner whenever a dispute about coverage of such
7 off-label prescription drugs prescribed by a physician is brought to the commissioner. All
8 members of the advisory panel shall have significant expertise in treating rheumatologic disease,
9 and the panel shall include at least one physician representing commercial insurers.

10 After consulting with said advisory panel, the commissioner may direct an insurer to make
11 payments required by section forty-seven O of chapter one hundred and seventy-five, section

12 eight P of chapter one hundred and seventy-six A, section four O of chapter one hundred and
13 seventy-six B, and section four F of chapter one hundred and seventy-six G.

14 SECTION 2. Section 47K of Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
15 adding after the phrase “treatment of cancer” in the first, fourth, and eighth paragraphs the words
16 “or rheumatologic disease”.